POL 14 VIETS

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Susan Jeal DATE 10/5/81
XDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON (S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SEPT 11

1. FIRST IN SERIES OF ELECTION BRIEFINGS BY GVN FOR LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS HELD AT DIEN HONG PALACE 1200 SEPTEMBER 11. BRIEFING, GIVEN BY ARVN LIEUTENANT COLONEL FFROM MINISTRY INFORMATION AND PSYWAR, INCLUDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

2. COUNTRY-WIDE VOTING PERCENTAGE OF 37 PERCENT HAD BEEN RECORDED BY NOON. BRIEFER NOTED THAT OF 52 CONSTITUENCIES TWO HAVE HAD TURNOUT OF LESS THAN 20 PERCENT THUS FAR, TEN HAVE HAD TURNOUT BETWEEN 20 AND 30 PERCENT, TWENTY HAVE TURNOUT BETWEEN 30 AND 40 PERCENT, THIRTEEN WITH TURNOUT BETWEEN 40 AND 50 PERCENT AND SEVEN WITH TURNOUT OVER 50 PERCENT. (OVER 50 PERCENT TURNOUT BY NOON WERE PROVINCES OF THUA THIEN, KHANH HOA, PHU BON, PLEIKU, LONG KHANH AND MUNICIPALITIES OF HUE AND CAM RANH.)

3. BRIEFER THEN TURNED TO VC ACTIVITY DURING PAST 24 HOURS STATING THAT THERE HAD BEEN 90 INCIDENTS OF VC ANTI-ELECTION SABOTAGE, A THREEFOLD INCREASE OVER THREE DAYS AGO AND FIVE TIMES THE LEVEL OF VC TERRORISM ON AN AVERAGE DAY IN AUGUST. EXAMPLES OF VC TERRORISM CITED SUCH AS MORTAR ATTACK ON POLLING PLACE IN DANANG AT 0830 SEPTEMBER 11, MINING OF TRUCK CARRYING VOTERS TO DANANG AT 0845. THERE WERE ALSO TWO SEPARATE MORTAR ATTACKS AGAINST

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HAN THIET IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE. BRIEFER COMMENTED THAT DESPITE VC EFFORTS TO OBSTRUCT ELECTION TURNOUT WAS ENCOURAGING AND OVERALL CASUALTIES HAD BEEN LIGHT.

4. NEXT BRIEFING AT DIEN HONG PALACE SCHEDULED FOR 2[illegible]0 LOCAL SEPTEMBER 11.
LODGE

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 3:58 A.M., SEPTEMBER 11. PASSED WHITE HOUSE, DOD, CIA, USIA, NSA 3:58 A.M., SEPTEMBER 11.

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